

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1306

By Yokley

A RESOLUTION to recognize Matilda "Tilda" Jenkins Webb and the late Dewey Elmer "Zack" Webb for their many contributions to the heritage and history of the Cosby community, Cocke County, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary Tennesseans who have contributed significantly to their respective communities and enriched the lives of their fellow citizens through their beneficence and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Matilda "Tilda" Jenkins Webb and the late Dewey Elmer "Zack" Webb shared their love and their land to help establish Great Smoky Mountains National Park and to make Cocke County an even better place to live; and

WHEREAS, the son of Luther and Margaret (Sutton) Webb, Dewey Elmer Webb, known as "Zack," was born April 4, 1909, and passed away in 2005 at the age of 96; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of William and Ida (Gilliland) Jenkins, Matilda Jenkins, known as "Tilda," was born March 15, 1909, and today, at the age of 101, lives in Wilton Springs within sight of Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, as a child, Zack Webb lived with his grandfather, Jack Sutton; after his grandfather's death, he and his parents moved to Do Well Hollow to live on a farm willed to them by Mr. Sutton; and

WHEREAS, Zach Webb attended school at White Rock, one of the dozens of one-room and two-room schools that dotted Cocke County's countryside in the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, Tilda Jenkins was born in the Bluffton community, a short distance from today's Great Smoky Mountains National Park; after her mother's death when Tilda was eleven

years old, she was forced to drop out of school and help care for her father and younger siblings; and

WHEREAS, Zack Webb and Tilda Jenkins were joined in holy matrimony on June 8, 1928, and immediately “went to housekeeping” in a home on the Sutton farm in Do Well Hollow; and

WHEREAS, the Webb's three oldest children were born while Zack and Tilda lived on the Sutton farm: Reva Dean, Ida Ruth, and Larry; and

WHEREAS, when land for Great Smoky Mountains National Park was being acquired, Mr. and Mrs. Webb accepted the government's offer of \$250 for their property; they deposited the money in a local Newport bank, and shortly thereafter, the bank failed and the couple lost all their money; and

WHEREAS, without money and without land, the Webbs struggled; however, they eventually recovered twenty-five percent of their savings, and with this money, they were able to purchase a farm in the Gunter Town community, which bordered today's Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, Zack and Tilda moved from the Park shortly after the birth of their son, Larry, in January of 1932; later, another son, Gay Webb, was born; and

WHEREAS, the Webb family sold their Gunter Town farm and moved to Wilton Springs in the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, in addition to farming, Mr. Webb worked as a rural mail carrier, driving a daily route that took him through the Cosby, Hartford, and Waterville communities; and

WHEREAS, he also served with distinction for sixteen years as a member of the Cocke County Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, Mr. and Mrs. Webb generously donated land for the newly established Webb Baptist Church, which was located on Wilton Springs Road near their home; and

WHEREAS, in her sixties, Mrs. Webb proved that one is never too old to learn and fulfilled a lifelong dream when she returned to school and earned her high school diploma at the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Mrs. Webb has dedicated herself to the collection, compilation, and publication of her family's genealogy and history; and

WHEREAS, she served adroitly on the steering committee for the book, *Cocke County, Tennessee and Its People*, and contributed greatly to the publication of *Sacred to the Memory: Cocke County, Tennessee's Cemetery Records*; and

WHEREAS, the large family of Zack and Tilda Webb now extends to five generations; as a result of the hard work and dedicated parenting of Mr. and Mrs. Webb, family members have established themselves as Cocke County's leading citizens in business, education, government, and public service; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Webb and her two daughters, Reva Dean Webb Bryant and Ida Ruth Webb Sutton, represent one of the few remaining two-generational families who once lived in what is now Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the instrumental role they have played in the past, present, and future of Cocke County and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Zack and Tilda Webb are being honored this year by Cosby in the Park, an event that seeks to preserve the cultural heritage of the Cosby Community and increase awareness of the region's panoramic history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to join in this richly deserved celebration of the Webb family and their many contributions to their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Matilda "Tilda" Jenkins Webb and the late Dewey Elmer "Zack" Webb for their many contributions to the heritage and history of the Cosby community, Cocke County, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we honor the memory of Mr. Zack Webb and wish Mrs. Tilda Webb all the best as she enjoys life basking in the beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains and the love of her family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.